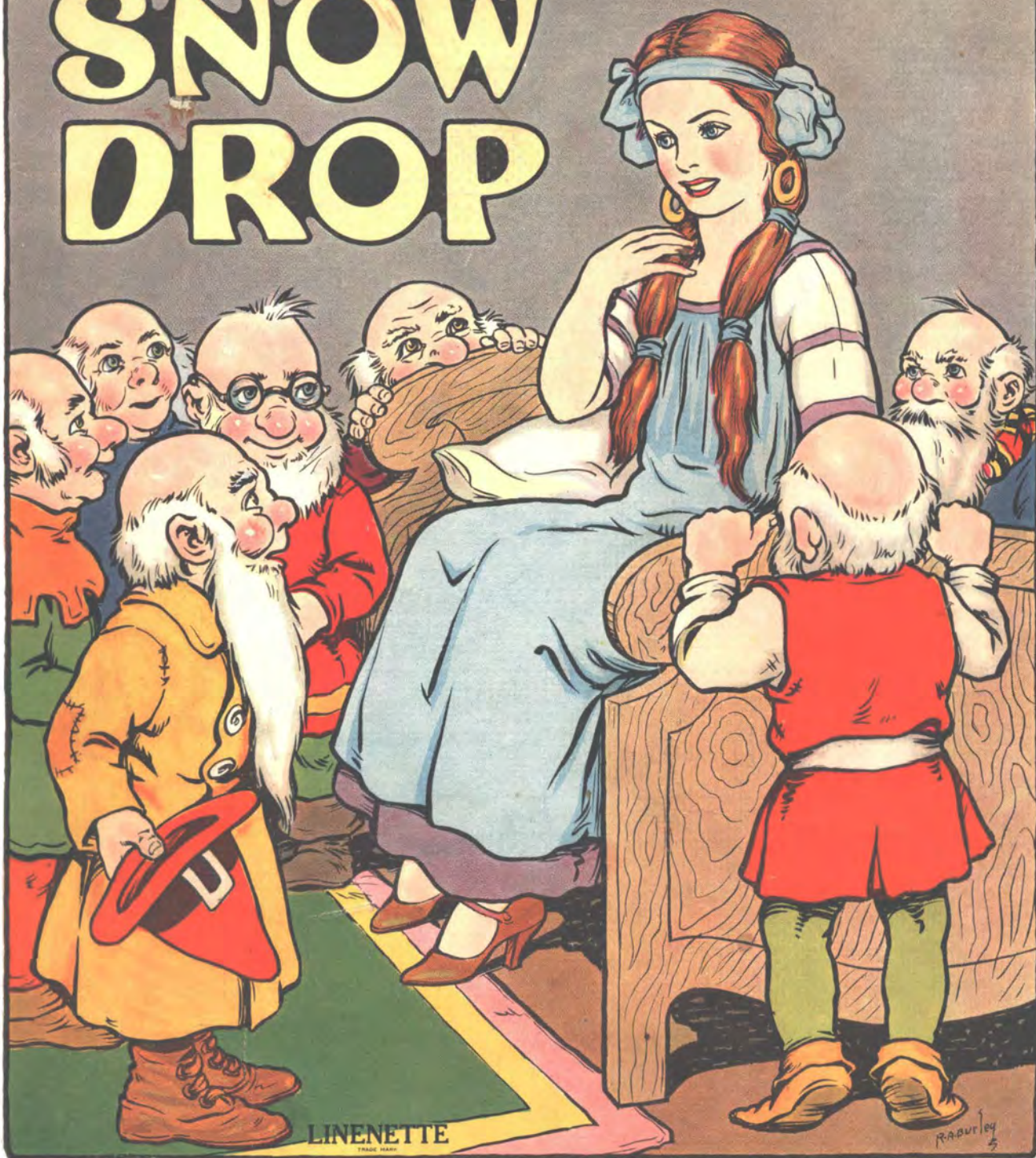


SNOW DROP



LINETTE
TRADE MARK

RABURY
5

LITTLE SNOWDROP



Long ago, there lived in a strange land a lovely little Princess, as fair and dainty as new-fallen snow. It was for this reason that everyone called her Little Snowdrop. Not only at the Court, but even among all the people, the little girl was dearly beloved, for she was as kind as she was beautiful.

Snowdrop's mother was dead and her stepmother, the Queen, was very cruel and vain. All day long she would look into her magic mirror, admiring herself and listening to the words of flattery which it would tell her.

One day, when Snowdrop was about eighteen years old, her stepmother was looking into her mirror and asking who was the most beautiful woman in the kingdom.

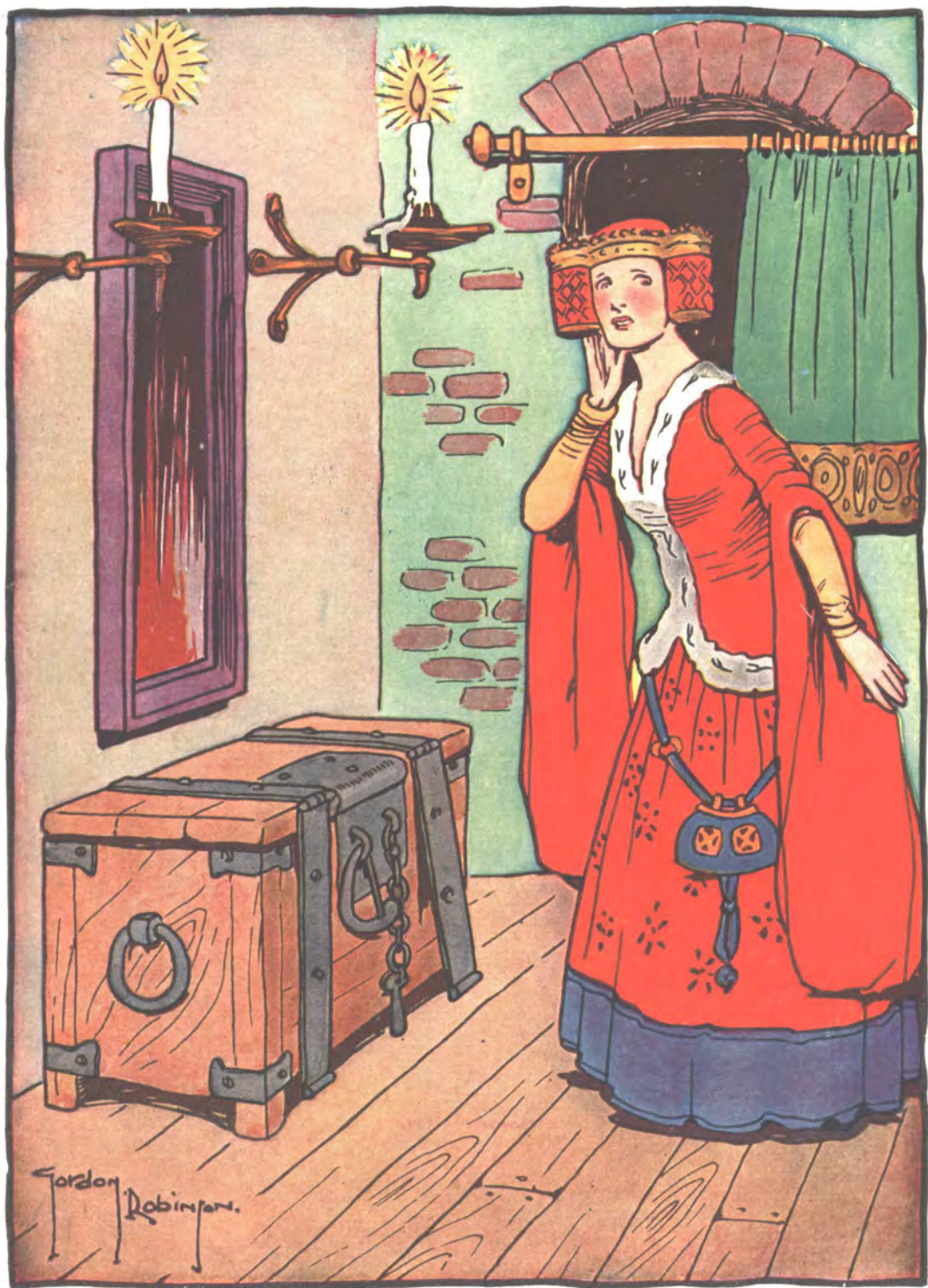


Imagine her surprise and disappointment, when the mirror answered:

“You were the handsomest Queen of old,
But Snowdrop is lovelier a thousandfold.”

When the heartless Queen heard these words, she was very angry, for she could not bear the thought that there was anyone else more beautiful than herself. So she swore to get rid of her stepdaughter. She called one of the King’s huntsmen, and ordered him to take Snowdrop out into the woods and kill her.

The huntsman took the lovely Princess many miles from the castle, deep into the forest, but when he was about to kill her, he was so overcome by her innocence and beauty that he let her go. In her stead he killed a young deer, which he found nearby, and the animal’s





heart was taken to the Queen, who thought it was Snowdrop's.

Now, the young Princess, when she had been set free by the huntsman, wandered through the woods, looking for a place to rest. She was so far from the palace that she did not know her way, so she stumbled along as best she could. After walking for an hour or more, she came to a very thick part of the forest and was surprised to find herself at the door of a cozy little cottage, which she entered.

All unknown to Snowdrop, this cottage was the home of seven little dwarfs, who used to spend the entire day in the woods. They lived all by themselves and each one took a turn in doing the housework. Inside the house,







Snowdrop saw seven little beds and flinging herself down on one of them (for she was very tired) she fell fast asleep.

When the dwarfs returned from their day's work, they found the beautiful Princess, and were delighted to have so lovely a person around them. So they begged her to stay and keep house for them. This she gladly promised to do, and for many months, they were all very happy together.

It was not long after Snowdrop had left the castle that the Queen learned the trick that had been played on her, and when the mirror told her that her stepdaughter was still the fairest lady in the land, she thought out another plan to get rid of her. Disguised as an old peddler woman selling laces and ribbons, she called at the little cottage in the woods while the dwarfs were away, and begged





Snowdrop to buy a pair of bodice laces. Then Snowdrop put the laces into the bodice, but as she could not fasten them herself, she asked the old woman to help her. The woman pulled the laces so tight that poor Snowdrop couldn't breathe and fell fainting on the floor.

The wicked Queen, thinking she had killed her step-daughter, quickly hurried away, but the dwarfs happened to return soon after. Seeing poor Snowdrop's plight, they immediately cut the bodice laces, and thus saved her life.

Again the Queen asked her mirror who was the most beautiful lady, and once more it answered, "Snowdrop is the fairest of them all." So she made up her mind again to disguise herself and go to the cottage. This time she urged Snowdrop to buy a comb, which the Queen had poisoned, and no sooner had she run the comb through the girl's hair than Snowdrop, poisoned, dropped down as though she were dead. When the dwarfs came back, they quickly removed the comb from Snowdrop's hair, and washing and bathing her head, they brought her back to life again.

When the wicked Queen was at home, she stood before her mirror, and thought that this time she would surely be told that there was no lovelier woman than herself. But the mirror replied, as before, that Snowdrop was still the fairest of the fair.

For the third time, the Queen swore that she would kill her stepdaughter; so she again dressed as a poor peddler woman, and calling at the cottage, offered Snowdrop a rosy apple. To show that it was good, the Queen ate half herself, and then gave the other half, which was poisoned, to Snowdrop. As soon as she ate it, the girl dropped dead. Then the woman ran away.

When the dwarfs came home and found their dear little housekeeper dead, they did everything they could to bring her back to life; but it was too late—nothing could help Snowdrop. So they put her into a beautiful glass coffin and carried her to the top of a mountain. Up there they met a rich and handsome Prince, and he fell so deeply in love with the dead girl, that he asked the dwarfs to allow him to take her away in her coffin. This they granted and as the coffin was being raised, one of the men holding it, stumbled and fell, and the jar was so sudden that it jerked the piece of poisoned apple out of Snowdrop's mouth.

At once the beautiful girl came to life again and seeing the handsome Prince, fell in love with him. So the Prince and Snowdrop were married that very day, in the presence of the dwarfs. The Prince took her to his own land, where the wicked Queen could never reach her again. And Snowdrop lived happily with the Prince for many, many years.



NC 431

PRINTED IN U.S.A.